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PRRC emerging trends

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Among Aware Group

Church/State Separation Backed

PRINCETON, N.J. – Of the 55% of Americans who correctly identify the words of the First Amendment statement on religion as part of the U.S. Constitution, eight persons in 10 (83%) say they favor the separation of church and state as described in this document.

This finding is from a recent survey conducted for the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) by The Gallup Organization. Other findings from this survey, as well as recent Gallup Polls, help define public opinion on the separation issue.

First, it is clear that many Americans do not object to the clergy speaking out, in general, on the moral and religious dimensions of public policy. These views are reflected by survey findings from the CBN survey in which 47% said they feel that it is "very" or "fairly" important for religious organizations to make public statements about what they feel to be the will of God in political and economic matters, compared to 39%, who say it is "not very" or "not at all important."

BUT OBJECT TO DIRECT INVOLVEMENT BY CLERGY

Although Americans generally do not object to members of the clergy and religious organizations discussing the moral and religious implications of matters of public policy, they do object to the direct involvement of the clergy in the political process.

For example, by a 5-to-3 ratio, they think it is wrong for religious groups to work actively for the defeat of political candidates who don't agree with their position on issues.

In addition, by a similar 5-to-3 ratio, Americans think religious organizations should not try to persuade Senators and Representatives to enact legislation they would like to see become law.

Still further evidence is seen from the latest Gallup Poll which shows 64% of Americans holding the belief that it is wrong for members of the clergy to cite their own political beliefs in their sermons.

And, looking at the other side of the coin, 54% of survey respondents say it is wrong for political candidates to bring in their own religious beliefs in discussing issues facing the nation.

ONLY 4% SAY CLERGY HAVE TRIED TO INFLUENCE VOTE

Despite the considerable attention given the issue of religion and politics, relatively few Americans (4%) report that the clergy of the church or synagogue they attend have urged them to vote for a particular presidential candidate or a particular political party during this year's presidential campaign.

Here are the questions and key findings:

Which of these statements, if any, are found in the Constitution of the United States? (from CBN survey)

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Yes	55%
No/no opinion	45
	100%

How important do you feel it is for religious organizations to make public statements about what they feel to be the will of God in political-economic matters? (from CBN survey)

Very/fairly	47%
Not very/not at all	39
No opinion	14
	100%

Certain religious groups are working actively for the defeat of political candidates who don't agree with their position on certain issues. Do you think they are right or wrong to do this? (from CBN survey)

Right	30%
Wrong	52
No opinion	18
	100%

continued on page 2

Do you think religious organizations should or should not try to persuade Senators and Representatives to enact legislation they would like to see become law? (from CBN survey)

Should	31%
Should not	52
No opinion	17
	100%

CLERGY BRING IN OWN POLITICAL BELIEFS

Do you think it is wrong or not wrong for members of the clergy to bring in their own political beliefs in their sermons?

	Wrong %	Not wrong %	No opinion %
NATIONAL	64	30	6
Whites	66	29	5
Non-whites	52	36	12
East	69	27	4
Midwest	62	29	9
South	62	32	6
West	66	29	5
Protestants	64	30	6
Catholics	64	30	6
Church members	65	30	5
Non-members	64	28	8

Has the clergyman of the church or synagogue you attend urged you to vote for a particular presidential candidate or a particular political party during this year's presidential campaign?

	Yes, candidate %	Yes, party %	No %	Not a church member %	No answer %
NATIONAL	3	1	78	16	2
Whites	2	1	80	16	1
Non-whites	5	5	70	15	5
East	3	1	75	20	1
Midwest	2	*	83	12	3
South	3	3	81	12	1
West	2	1	73	23	1
Protestants	3	2	82	12	1
Catholics	1	2	84	11	2
Church members	4	2	91	2	1

* Less than one percent.

CANDIDATES BRING IN OWN RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Do you think it is wrong or not wrong for political candidates to bring in their own religious beliefs in discussing issues facing the nation?

	Wrong %	Not wrong %	No opinion %
NATIONAL	54	39	7
Whites	55	39	6
Non-whites	47	39	14
East	65	29	6
Midwest	50	42	8
South	46	48	6
West	56	37	7
Protestants	48	45	7
Catholics	59	35	6
Church members	49	45	6
Non-members	64	28	8

The findings of the CBN study are based on 513 telephone interviews with adults, 18 and older, conducted September 10 through 16. The findings of the Gallup Poll survey are based on in-person interviews with 1,518 adults, 18 and older, conducted in more than 300 scientifically selected localities across the nation during the period September 21-24.

FIVE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD ORDER *RELIGION IN AMERICA, '84*

1. *Religion in America, 1984* is an invaluable source of information on religious beliefs and practices in the U.S. and abroad, much of which is not available elsewhere.
2. It provides national and regional norms against which the clergy can match their own churches or synagogues in terms of religious belief, practice, knowledge and stewardship.
3. It provides new and exciting information that can be developed into sermons or articles on the state of religion.
4. It provides data indispensable for future planning: What are the new religious interests of church members and non-members? Where does the public think churches are falling short?
5. Specific steps, based on survey data, are suggested as ways to strengthen churches and to improve their outreach.

HOW TO ORDER

Religion in America, 1984 can be ordered from the Gallup Organization, Inc., P.O. Box 310, Princeton, New Jersey 08542 for $25.00.

22% Of Adults Are Evangelicals

Although the influence of evangelicals in U.S. society is being felt in new ways, the actual proportion of adults who can be classified as evangelicals, according to one definition, has shown little change over the last eight years.

In the latest survey, a total of 22% of adults are found to be evangelicals, statistically about the same proportion as recorded in surveys conducted in 1983, 1981, 1980, and 1976.

DEFINITION OF EVANGELICALS

Evangelicals in each survey are defined as those with three basic characteristics: (1) they describe themselves as "born-again Christians" or say they have had a "born-again" experience; (2) they have encouraged other people to believe in Jesus Christ; and (3) they believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible. (This is a fairly rigorous definition because some evangelicals do not hold to a literal *interpretation* of the Bible, although they accept the absolute *authority* of the Bible.)

The current percentage (22%) projects to approximately 35 million adults.

QUESTIONS AND NATIONAL RESULTS

Following are the questions asked in each survey and the national results:

Would you say that you have been born again or have had a born-again experience – that is, a turning point in your life when you committed yourself to Jesus Christ?

PERCENT SAYING 'BORN AGAIN'

1984	40%
1983	38
1981	35
1980	38
1976	34

Have you ever tried to encourage someone to believe in Jesus Christ or to accept Him as his or her Savior?

ENCOURAGED SOMEONE TO ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST

1984	48%
1983	50
1981	53
1980	44
1976	47

Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible? (Respondents were shown a card with the following statements:)

* The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word.
* The Bible is the inspired word of God but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word.
* The Bible is an ancient book of fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by men.

HOLD LITERAL VIEW OF BIBLE

1984	37%
1983	39
1981	37
1980	39
1976	38

The following table shows the trend in the percentage meeting all three criteria:

'EVANGELICALS'
(Percent Meeting All 3 Criteria)

1984	22%
1983	20
1981	17
1980	19
1976	18

The latest findings are based on in-person interviews with 1,590 adults, 18 and older, conducted in more than 300 scientifically selected localities across the nation during the period September 28-October 1.

For results based on samples of this size, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be 3 percentage points in either direction.

INTERESTED IN CONDUCTING A SURVEY IN YOUR CHURCH?

A growing number of priests, ministers, and rabbis have expressed interest in conducting surveys of their congregations and/or local communities.

If you share this interest and would like expert help and advice, we suggest you contact Russell D. Bredholt, Continental Research Associates, 1385 Yellow Pine Court, Winter Springs, Florida 32708. Telephone: (305) 365-4321. Continental Research Associates is affiliated with the Princeton Religion Research Center.

'Religious Faith' At Bottom Of Teens' List Of Important Traits

Responsibility, honesty and self-respect head a list of qualities that teenagers consider very important among people their age, according to a recent Gallup/Associated Press Youth Survey.

Responsibility is cited by 95%, honesty by 94%, and self-respect by 87%. Almost as important, according to many, are hard work (82%), self-reliance (78%), independence (74%) and patience (74%). *Only about half (51%), however, consider religious faith a very important quality.*

Having a sense of responsibility and being honest are considered very important traits by teens from all walks of life. Other qualities are assigned different degrees of importance by teens, depending on their background characteristics.

For example, young women are more inclined than young men to rate self-respect very highly, by a margin of 92% to 84%. Self-reliance, a trait given prominence in the women's movement, also finds greater importance among young women, by a margin of 82% to 75%. The need for patience is also rated higher by young women (76%) than by young men (71%).

OLDER TEENS MORE APT TO CITE HARD WORK

Among older teens, ages 16 to 18, hard work is more important than it is among younger teens, by the margin of 86% to 78%. Older teens are also more inclined to stress the importance of self-reliance (82%) than are the younger teens (75%).

Regionally, teens in the South and West attach greater importance than those in the East and Midwest to self-reliance and to patience. But the "laid-back" westerners show the least inclination to cultivate the habits of hard work (73%). Easterners show more willingness to do hard work (82%), but lag behind all other regions on most other qualities.

RELIGIOUS FAITH SEEN STRESSED IN BIBLE BELT

The importance of religious faith is strongest in the "Bible Belt" states of the South (64%) and Midwest (56%), but drops sharply in the East (40%) and West (36%).

Protestants (57%) are more apt to consider religious faith very important than are Catholics (49%). Protestants are also more likely to give greater importance than Catholics to independence (80% to 66%) and self-reliance (81% to 76%). In the future, however, we may speak of the "Catholic work ethic," since Catholics (86%) now lead Protestants (79%) in considering hard work a very important trait to learn.

Ratings of qualities were determined by the following question:

For the following personal qualities – hard work, honesty, self-reliance, self-respect, responsibility, independence, patience, religious faith – how important do you feel each one is for a person your age to learn: very important, fairly important, or not so important?

The findings are based on telephone interviews with a representative cross-section of 504 teenagers, 13 through 18, conducted from April through June, 1984.

QUALITIES CONSIDERED "VERY IMPORTANT"

	Responsibility	Honesty	Self-respect	Hard work
National	95%	94%	87%	82%
Boys	94	94	84	83
Girls	97	95	92	81
Ages 13 to 15	95	93	86	78
Ages 16 to 18	96	96	89	86
East	92	94	87	82
Midwest	98	95	88	86
South	95	95	88	82
West	99	93	88	73
Protestants	97	96	88	79
Catholics	93	93	87	86

	Self reliance	Independence	Patience	Religious faith
National	78%	74%	74%	51%
Boys	75	73	71	51
Girls	82	75	76	52
Ages 13 to 15	75	71	79	52
Ages 16 to 18	82	76	76	50
East	75	68	68	40
Midwest	73	75	72	56
South	86	76	79	64
West	82	78	78	36
Protestants	81	80	73	57
Catholics	76	66	74	49

Views On Impact Of Religion On U.S. Society Today Are Mixed

A total of 42% of Americans today say religion is increasing its influence on American life, roughly balanced by the 39% who say religion is losing its impact. The findings closely parallel those recorded in a 1983 survey.

Following is the question that has been asked in 16 surveys over the last quarter century:

At the present time, do you think religion as a whole is increasing its influence on American life or losing its influence?

Following is the full trend. The proportions saying "the same" or "no opinion" are excluded.

INFLUENCE OF RELIGION ON AMERICAN LIFE

	Increasing %	Losing %
1984	42	39
1983	44	42
1981	38	46
1980	35	46
1978	37	48
1977	36	45
1976	44	45
1975	39	51
1974	31	56
1970	14	75
1969	14	70
1968	18	67
1967	23	57
1965	33	45
1962	45	31
1957	69	14

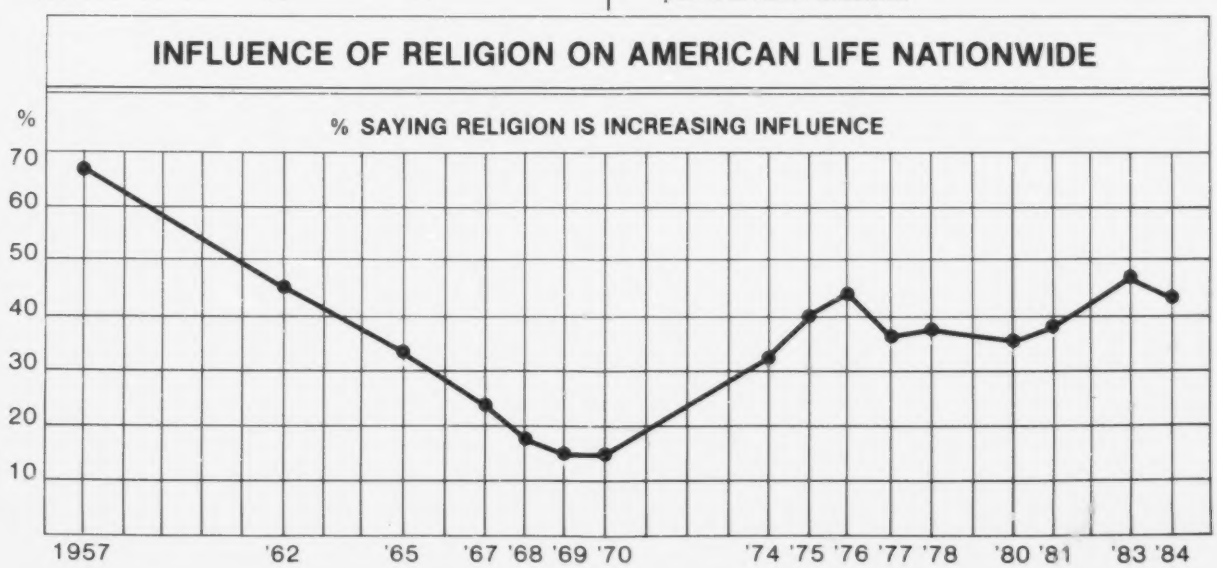
The following table shows the changes by groups between 1970, when only 14% said religion was increasing its influence, and today, when 42% do so. As seen, perceptions differ little by groups, in both the 1970 and 1984 surveys.

PERCENT SAYING RELIGION INCREASING INFLUENCE

	1970 %	1984 %	Point change
NATIONAL	14	42	+28
Men	13	40	+27
Women	14	43	+29
18-29 years	14	43	+29
30-49 years	13	42	+29
50 and older	15	41	+26
Protestants	14	43	+29
Catholics	13	40	+27

The latest findings are based on in-person interviews with 1,579 adults, 18 and older, conducted in more than 300 scientifically selected localities across the nation during the period July 27-30.

For results based on samples of this size, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be 3 percentage points in either direction.



Next Issue Will Explore Views Of Evangelicals On Key Issues

The November issue of EMERGING TRENDS, will feature an extensive report on the views of evangelicals and non-evangelicals on 10 key issues that were discussed in the recent political campaign.

Other issues will report the latest findings on churchgoing and membership in the United States.

We urge you to subscribe to EMERGING TRENDS to keep abreast of the changing religious scene. To encourage you to do so, we are offering persons who subscribe for two years a free copy of an important book by Miriam Murphy, S.N.D., Ph.D, a leader of seminars on prayer at Princeton Theological Seminary. In her book, *Prayer In Action*, Miriam Murphy writes about the importance of prayer in Christian life and shows how to put it into action in one's personal life and community outreach. Whether Protesant or Catholic, those seeking to understand Christianity as a way of life and a personal experience will find the book especially helpful.

It is an excellent resource for prayer workshops and study groups. The main theme is growth in a relation of love, faith through prayer with God and an outreach toward others through a love activated in prayer.

Dr. Miriam Murphy, a Sister of Notre Dame, has been a seminar leader at the Center of Continuing Education, Princeton Theological Seminary, since 1973. While a Visiting Fellow at Princeton Seminary she wrote the book, *Prayer in Action, a Growth Experience*. She is co-founder of the Princeton Religion Research Center. Prior to coming to Princeton, she was on the Ecumenical Commission in Columbus, Ohio and Chairman of a Commission of the Ohio Council of Churches. She currently lectures at the seminary and offers workshops on prayer and spirituality.

Her seminars include such themes as:

- Christian Reality in Focus
- Your Renewal-Growth Center
- Integrating Prayer with Life
- Prayer Forms for the Maturing Christian
- Discipline: Solitude, Silence
- Prayer as Ministry: Learning, Listening, Counseling, Healing
- From Inner Renewal to Social Renewal
- The Mysticism of Action: Creative Christian Decision-Making; Surveying the Spiritual Climate of Your Church

A one-year subscription (10 issues) to EMERGING TRENDS is only $30. For $60 you'll receive two full years and a free copy of *Prayer In Action*.

(Note: Offer good while supply lasts.)

EMERGING TRENDS is published monthly except July and August by the PRINCETON RELIGION RESEARCH CENTER. The Center, founded in 1977, is an inter-faith non-denominational research organization with headquarters in Princeton, New Jersey. The PRRC specializes in creative, actionable research, utilizing the worldwide attitudinal and behavioral facilities of Gallup International. The purpose of the PRRC is to gain a better understanding of the nature and depth of religious commitment in the U.S. and abroad and to explore ways this information can enable religious leaders to promote spiritual growth. A one year subscription can be obtained for $30.00; inquire: **Publications Department, P.O. Box 310, 53 Bank Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08542 (Telephone 609/924-9600). PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ADDRESS CHANGE.**

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Evangelicals, Non-Evangelicals Disagree On Key Social Issues

PRINCETON, N.J. – The views of evangelicals, who comprise about one-fourth of the adult American population, differ sharply from those of non-evangelicals on prayer in public schools, abortion, the ERA, a nuclear freeze, and relaxing pollution controls, as determined in a recent Gallup Poll which sought to determine the shape of public opinion near the beginning of President Reagan's second term.

On the other hand, considerable agreement is found between both groups on the need for tax increases, defense spending, tuition tax credits, increased spending for social programs, and maintaining cost-of-living increases on Social Security benefits.

Survey respondents were handed a card listing 10 key voter issues and asked this question:

This card lists various proposals being discussed in this country today. Would you tell me whether you generally favor or generally oppose each of these proposals?

Here are the results nationally and by evangelicals and non-evangelicals:

Proposition 1: Tax increases
Tax increases to reduce the Federal budget deficit

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
	%	%	%
NATIONAL	34	62	4
Evangelicals	30	65	5
Non-evangelicals .	36	61	3

Proposition 2: Prayer in public schools
Prayer in public schools

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
	%	%	%
NATIONAL	69	28	3
Evangelicals	85	13	2
Non-evangelicals .	64	33	3

Proposition 3: Reduced defense spending
Reduced defense spending

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
	%	%	%
NATIONAL	50	46	4
Evangelicals	47	47	6
Non-evangelicals .	52	45	3

Proposition 4: Tuition tax credits
Tuition tax credits for children attending private or parochial schools

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
	%	%	%
NATIONAL	50	45	5
Evangelicals	53	40	7
Non-evangelicals .	49	46	5

Proposition 5: Ban on abortion
A ban on all abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or when the mother's life is endangered

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
	%	%	%
NATIONAL	50	45	5
Evangelicals	66	30	4
Non-evangelicals .	46	50	4

Proposition 6: Equal Rights Amendment
Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
	%	%	%
NATIONAL	63	31	6
Evangelicals	50	42	8
Non-evangelicals .	67	29	4

Proposition 7: Spending for social programs
Increased spending for social programs such as education and medicare

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
	%	%	%
NATIONAL	74	24	2
Evangelicals	71	25	4
Non-evangelicals .	74	23	3

Proposition 8: Nuclear Freeze
An agreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union for an immediate, verifiable freeze on the testing and production of nuclear weapons

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
	%	%	%
NATIONAL	78	18	4
Evangelicals	69	23	8
Non-evangelicals .	80	16	4

Proposition 9: Pollution controls
Relaxing pollution controls to reduce cost to industry

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
	%	%	%
NATIONAL	33	64	3
Evangelicals	42	52	6
Non-evangelicals .	30	67	3

Proposition 10: Social Security Benefits
Maintaining cost-of-living increases on Social Security benefits

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
	%	%	%
NATIONAL	88	10	2
Evangelicals	86	11	3
Non-evangelicals .	89	10	1

The results are based on in-person interviews with 1,590 adults, 18 and older, conducted in more than 300 scientifically selected localities across the nation during the period Sept. 28-Oct. 1.

For results based on samples of this size, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be 3 percentage points in either direction.

Evangelicals in this survey are defined as those who share three basic characteristics: (1) They say they have had a "born again" experience – a turning point in their lives when they committed themselves to Jesus Christ; (2) they have tried to encourage other people to believe in Jesus Christ; and (3) they believe the Bible is the actual word of God. Using this definition, 24% in the current survey are classified as evangelicals.

53% of Canadians Oppose Ordination of Homosexuals

A 53% majority of Canadians questioned about their attitudes on the ordination of homosexuals as ministers or priests, reject such a proposal. Only half that proportion (26%) feel homosexuals should be eligible for ordination, while 10% believe it depends on the individual situation.

Here is the question asked:

What is your opinion about homosexuals in the ministry? Do you think homosexuals should, or should not be eligible for ordination as ministers or as priests?

Canadians who claim no church affiliation are equally divided on this issue, with 37% for and 37% against homosexual ministers or priests. Roman Catholics are slightly more inclined to favor this idea (29%) than are Protestants (21%), but a majority of each group disapproves.

Opposition to homosexual ordination tends to increase with age, and to decrease with formal education, and is somewhat higher among men than women.

Here are the results, in detail:

ORDINATION OF HOMOSEXUALS AS MINISTER/PRIEST

	Yes, should	No, should not	Depends	No opinion
	%	%	%	%
NATIONAL	26	53	10	11
Protestants	21	60	10	8
Roman Catholics	29	50	9	12
No religious preference	37	37	12	13
Men	23	57	9	10
Women	29	50	11	11
18-29 years	34	44	11	11
30-49 years	33	51	8	8
50 and older	12	64	11	12
College education	34	48	6	13
High school	27	52	11	10
Grade school	14	64	12	10

Note: Percentages may not add to 100, because of rounding.

The survey results are based on 1,057 personal, in-home interviews with aduits, 18 years and over, conducted between August 30 and September 1. For results based on samples of this size, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be 4 percentage points in either direction.

Confidence In Church Is Highest

Today, as in six previous surveys conducted since 1973, more people express a high degree of confidence in the church or organized religion than in any of the other nine institutions tested.

Two-thirds of survey respondents (64%) in a survey of 750 adults, 18 and older, conducted Oct. 10-16 for Newsweek by The Gallup Organization, express a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in the church or organized religion. This proportion closely matches the proportion recorded in the previous six surveys. Last year the figure was 62%.

Next in the current rankings is the military (58% have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in this institution), followed by banks and banking and the U.S. Supreme Court, each with 51%. Then, the public schools (47%), newspapers (34%), organized labor (30%), the U.S. Congress and big business (each with 29%). At the bottom of the list is television, with 26% expressing a great deal or quite a lot of confidence.

Here are the questions and highlights of the trend:

I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Would you please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one – a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?

CONFIDENCE IN INSTITUTIONS
(Percent saying "great deal" or "quite a lot," combined)

	1984 %	1983 %	1981 %	1979 %	1977 %	1975 %	1973 %
Church or organized religion	64	62	64	65	64	68	66
Military	58	53	50	54	57	58	NA
Banks and banking	51	51	46	60	NA	NA	NA
U.S. Supreme Court	51	42	46	45	46	49	44
Public schools	47	39	42	53	54	NA	58
Newspapers	34	38	35	51	NA	NA	39
Organized labor	30	26	28	36	39	38	30
Congress	29	28	29	34	40	40	42
Big business	29	28	20	32	33	34	26
Television	26	25	25	38	NA	NA	37

NA = not asked

The detailed responses show 41% saying they have a "great deal" of confidence in the church or organized religion, while 23% say "quite a lot," 22% "some," and 13% "very little."

Among the groups expressing the highest degree of confidence in the church are women, older persons, southerners, and non-whites. The following table shows the results by key population groups:

CONFIDENCE IN CHURCH OR ORGANIZED RELIGION

	Great deal %	Quite a lot %	Some %	Very little %	No opinion %
National	41	23	22	13	1
Men	38	20	24	16	2
Women	45	24	20	9	2
18-29 years	33	26	28	13	*
30-49 years	37	22	25	15	1
50 & older	52	21	14	10	3
College graduates	42	22	25	11	*
College incomplete	32	20	28	19	1
High school graduates	40	25	21	12	2
Not H.S. graduates	50	20	16	12	2
East	41	24	23	11	1
Midwest	41	20	19	19	1
South	48	20	24	6	2
West	32	30	20	16	2
Whites	39	24	22	13	2
Non-whites	56	15	18	11	*

** Less than one percent.*

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56% Say Religion Can Answer All Or Most Of Problems Of World

A majority of Americans believe religion can answer all or most of today's problems while only one person in five clearly doubts the relevance of religion in the modern world.

In a recent Gallup Poll, 56% of the public say that religion can provide answers for contemporary problems, 21% feel it is "largely old-fashioned and out of date," and 23% do not express an opinion.

STEADY DOWNTREND SINCE 1957 SURVEY

The proportion of adults who believe religion can answer today's problems has declined by 25 percentage points since a 1981 survey, with the sharpest decline having come among Catholics.

When this question was first asked, in 1957, 81% of the public expressed faith in religion's ability to provide answers for contemporary problems while merely 7% felt it was out of date. Those who saw religion as relevant dropped sharply in a 1974 survey, to 62%, levelled out to 65% in 1981, and subsequently declined to the current 56%.

In each of the five Gallup surveys in which this question has been asked, women, persons with less than a high school education and residents of the Midwest and South have been most apt to believe in religion's relevance.

QUESTION AND TREND

Following is the question asked to determine the public's views on the relevance of religion to modern problems:

Do you believe that religion can answer all or most of today's problems, or that religion is largely old-fashioned and out of date?

Here is a comparison of the latest findings with those recorded in the earlier surveys:

CAN RELIGION ANSWER PROBLEMS?

	Can answer %	Out of date %	No opinion %
1984	56	21	23
1982	60	22	18
1981	65	15	20
1974	62	20	18
1957	81	7	12

The following table compares the percentages in various population groups who currently believe religion can answer today's problems with the percentages who held this opinion in earlier surveys:

CAN RELIGION ANSWER PROBLEMS?

(Percent responding affirmatively)

	1957 %	1974 %	1981 %	1982 %	1984 %
NATIONAL	81	62	65	60	56
18-29 years	84	55	58	58	52
30-49 years	80	64	60	58	55
50 and older	79	66	73	63	60
Protestants	83	70	72	71	66
Catholics	83	58	64	53	48
College education	78	52	57	53	53
High school	83	63	67	63	55
Grade school	79	73	73	63	64
Men	75	54	58	53	54
Women	86	70	71	66	59

The latest findings are based on in-person interviews with 1,579 adults, 18 and older, conducted in more than 300 scientifically selected localities across the nation during the period July 27-30.

For results based on samples of this size, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be 3 percentage points in either direction.

9 IN 10 TEENS PLAN MARRIAGE

The nearly nine in 10 teens (88%) who plan to get married at some point in their lives represents the highest incidence of marriage intentions recorded by the Gallup Youth Survey in its seven-year history. In 1983 the proportion intending to get married was slightly lower, at 82%. The renewed interest in marriage stands in sharp contrast to the 1960's, when alternatives to the traditional wedding ceremony seemed to attract the young.

REMARKABLE STABILITY SINCE 1980

56% Say Religion 'Very Important'

The proportion of Americans who say religion is "very important" in their lives has been remarkably stable over the last five years, with 56% in 1984 surveys, compared to 55% in 1983, giving this response. Another 30% in the current surveys say "fairly important" while 13% answer "not very important."

The percent of Americans who said religion was very important in their lives plunged from 75% in 1952 to 52% in 1978, but has levelled out since then.

Most likely to say religion is very important in their lives, among the more than 9,000 Americans interviewed, are Protestants (62%), women (63%), those aged 50 and over (66%), Baptists (69%), persons with only a grade school background (71%), southerners (66%), and widows and widowers (72%).

Following is the question asked in each survey since 1952:

How important would you say religion is in your own life – very important, fairly important, or not very important?

Here is the trend:

IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION

	Very important %	Fairly important %	Not very important %
1984	56	30	13
1983	56	30	13
1982	56	30	13
1981	56	29	14
1980	55	31	13
1978	52	32	14
1965	70	22	7
1952	75	20	5

(The proportions having no opinion, 1% in the latest survey, are excluded.)

Here are the latest results based on interviews from six in-person surveys conducted during 1984 and the results by religious preference, sex, and young adults (18-24):

RESPONSES OF PROTESTANTS

	Very important %	Fairly important %	Not very important %
1984	62	29	8
1983	62	29	9
1980	61	30	8
1978	60	31	8
1965	74	20	5
1952	76	20	4

RESPONSES OF CATHOLICS

	Very important %	Fairly important %	Not very important %
1984	53	35	11
1983	56	34	9
1980	56	34	9
1978	51	36	11
1965	76	20	3
1952	83	14	3

RESPONSES OF MEN

	Very important %	Fairly important %	Not very important %
1984	48	34	17
1983	49	32	17
1980	48	34	17
1978	46	35	18
1965	63	26	10
1952	68	22	8

RESPONSES OF WOMEN

	Very important %	Fairly important %	Not very important %
1984	63	27	9
1983	62	28	9
1980	62	27	10
1978	58	29	11
1965	77	18	4
1952	79	18	3

RESPONSES OF 18-24 AGE GROUP

	Very important %	Fairly important %	Not very important %
1984	42	39	17
1983	44	40	14
1980	43	41	15
1978	37	43	19
1965	57	32	10
1952	64	30	6

And here is the trend in the proportions saying religion is very important in their lives among persons claiming affiliation with the major groups of churches:

	Baptists %	Methodists %	Lutherans %	Presbyterians %
1984	69	55	56	53
1983	69	56	55	55
1980	68	52	57	48
1965	82	65	66	71
1952	84	74	70	72

Next Issue Will Report Latest Churchgoing Trends In U.S.

The December issue of EMERGING TRENDS, will feature updates of long-term trends on churchgoing and membership, based on many thousands of in-person interviews.

Other topics will include the vote of evangelicals and drinking patterns among teenagers.

We urge you to subscribe to EMERGING TRENDS to keep abreast of the changing religious scene. To encourage you to do so, we are offering persons who subscribe for two years a free copy of an important book by Miriam Murphy, S.N.D., Ph.D, a leader of seminars on prayer at Princeton Theological Seminary. In her book, *Prayer In Action*, Miriam Murphy writes about the importance of prayer in Christian life and shows how to put it into action in one's personal life and community outreach. Whether Protesant or Catholic, those seeking to understand Christianity as a way of life and a personal experience will find the book especially helpful.

It is an excellent resource for prayer workshops and study groups. The main theme is growth in a relation of love, faith through prayer with God and an outreach toward others through a love activated in prayer.

Dr. Miriam Murphy, a Sister of Notre Dame, has been a seminar leader at the Center of Continuing Education, Princeton Theological Seminary, since 1973. While a Visiting Fellow at Princeton Seminary she wrote the book, *Prayer in Action, a Growth Experience*. She is co-founder of the Princeton Religion Research Center. Prior to coming to Princeton, she was on the Ecumenical Commission in Columbus, Ohio and Chairman of a Commission of the Ohio Council of Churches. She currently lectures at the seminary and offers workshops on prayer and spirituality.

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(Note: Offer good while supply lasts.)

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